

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A sortation system comprising:
 - a longitudinally extending monolithic monorail track, the monorail track comprising:
 - a U-shaped upper wheel engaging section;
 - a U-shaped lower wheel engaging section;
 - a U-shaped power section, the upper wheel engaging section being connected to an upper portion of the power section and the lower wheel engaging section being connected to a lower portion of the power section; and
 - two longitudinally extending mounting flanges, each mounting flange having a U-shape, one side of the mounting flange being coincident with a portion of one side of one of the upper wheel engaging section and the lower wheel engaging section; and one side of the mounting flange being coincident with a portion of one side of the power section, the upper wheel engaging section having its open side facing downward, the lower wheel engaging section having its open side facing upward, and the power section having its open side facing horizontally; and the upper wheel engaging section open side, the lower wheel engaging section open side and the power section open side all facing towards a common center; and
 - a plurality of interconnected cars, at least one car being a drive car, and at least one car being an article conveying car, each car comprising:
 - an interconnection connecting one car to an adjacent car, the interconnection including a mechanical connection and an electrical connection; and
 - a plurality of wheel assemblies, each wheel assembly engaging the track, each wheel assembly comprising:
 - a plurality of spaced apart side wheels, the side wheels rotating about a vertical axis, one side wheel engaging the upper wheel engaging section, the other side wheel engaging the lower wheel engaging section; and

an end wheel, the end wheel rotating about a horizontal axis, the end wheel engaging one of the upper wheel engaging section and the lower wheel engaging section, the end wheel including a caster swiveling about a vertical axis; each drive car comprising:

a drive car frame;

two wheel assemblies attached to the drive car frame;

a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the drive car frame, the motor and drive wheel assembly being vertically movable relative to the drive car frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive wheel assembly engaging the track, the drive wheel being positioned between the wheel assemblies, the motor and drive wheel assembly comprising: a cantilever bar attached to a rear part of the motor and drive wheel assembly, a portion of the cantilever bar distal from the motor and drive wheel assembly being attached to the drive car frame; and, a slide assembly mounted between the rear part of the motor and drive wheel assembly and the drive car frame, the slide assembly comprising a slide slidably fitting within a slotted member, the slide assembly permitting the motor and drive wheel assembly to move vertically relative to the drive car frame;

a control signal receiver;

a control signal transmission device adapted to transmit control signals to another drive car and to an article conveying car; and

a controller, the controller receiving control signals from the receiver, transmitting control signals to the motor and drive assembly and transmitting control signals for at least one of another drive car and an article conveying car to the control signal transmission device, wherein the control signal receiver, the control signal transmission device and the controller including a CAN serial bus network and wherein the interconnection electrical connection is electrically connected to the control signal transmission device;

each article conveying car comprising:

an article conveying car frame comprising two side plates connected by a plurality of cross bars, and a reduced friction plate having a groove therein;

three rollers rotatably attached to the article conveying car frame, the three rollers being arranged in a triangle, each roller having a groove thereabout, one of the rollers being translatably movable;

an endless movable belt about the rollers, the belt having a rib extending therefrom, the belt rib tracking in at least one of the reduced friction plate groove and the roller grooves;

two wheel assemblies attached to the article conveying car frame; and

a bi-direction position controllable belt drive attached to the frame and operably connected to one of the rollers.

2 - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A sortation system comprising:

a longitudinally extending monolithic monorail track comprising:

an upper wheel engaging section;

a lower wheel engaging section; and

a power section, the upper wheel engaging section being connected to an upper portion of the power section and the lower wheel engaging section being connected to a lower portion of the power section;

a multi-conductor power bus mounted within the power section;

two longitudinally extending mounting flanges, each mounting flange having a U-shape, one side of each mounting flange being coincident with a portion of one side of one of the upper wheel engaging section and the lower wheel engaging section; and another side of each mounting flange being coincident with a portion of one side of the power section,

wherein the upper wheel engaging section and the lower wheel engaging section are spaced apart, the track has a closed side being closed by the power section and an open side opposite the power section, the open side being between the upper wheel engaging section and the lower wheel engaging section;

a plurality of interconnected cars, at least one car being a drive car, and at least one car being an article conveying car, the at least one drive car and the at least one article conveying car each have a brush assembly slidably engaging the power bus.

22 - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A track comprising:
a longitudinally extending monolithic monorail track having:
an upper wheel engaging section;
a lower wheel engaging section;
a power section, the upper wheel engaging section being connected to an upper portion of the power section and the lower wheel engaging section being connected to a lower portion of the power section; and
a multi-conductor power bus mounted within the power section,
wherein the upper wheel engaging section, the lower wheel engaging section and the power section each have a U-shape, wherein the upper wheel engaging section has its open side facing downward, the lower wheel engaging section has its open side facing upward, and the power section has its open side facing horizontally; and the upper wheel engaging section open side, the lower wheel engaging section open side and the power section open side all facing towards a common center.

26. (Previously Presented) The track according to claim 25, further comprising:
two mounting flanges, each mounting flange having a U-shape, one side of the mounting flange being coincident with a portion of one side of one of the upper wheel engaging section and the lower wheel engaging section; and one side of the mounting flange being coincident with a portion of one side of the power section.

27-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The A drive car adapted for drivingly engaging a track comprising:
.....a frame;

_____ a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to the frame;
_____ a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the frame, the motor and drive wheel
assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive
wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track;~~according to claim 29;~~
_____ wherein there are two wheel assemblies, the drive car having a forward direction of
travel, one wheel assembly having the end wheel at an upper end of the wheel assembly and
being forward of the other wheel assembly, the end wheel of the other wheel assembly being at a
lower end of the wheel assembly; and
_____ wherein each wheel assembly comprises: a plurality of spaced apart side wheels, the side
wheels rotating about a vertical axis; and an end wheel, the end wheel rotating about a horizontal
axis.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A drive car adapted for drivingly engaging a track comprising:
_____ a frame;
_____ a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to the frame; and ~~according to claim 27;~~
_____ a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the frame, the motor and drive wheel
assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive
wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track;
_____ wherein a rear end of the motor and drive wheel assembly is attached to the frame, the
motor and drive wheel assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of
the motor and drive wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track.

33. (Original) The drive car according to claim 32, further comprising a cantilever bar attached to the rear end of the motor and drive wheel assembly, a portion of the cantilever bar distal from the motor and drive wheel assembly being attached to the frame.

34. (Original) The drive car according to claim 32, further comprising a slide assembly mounted between the rear end of the motor and drive wheel assembly and the frame, the slide assembly comprising a slide slidably fitting within a slotted member, the slide assembly permitting the motor and drive wheel assembly to move vertically relative to the frame.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The A drive car adapted for drivingly engaging a track comprising:~~
~~a frame;~~
~~a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to the frame; and~~
~~a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the frame, the motor and drive wheel~~
~~assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive~~
~~wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track; according to claim 27;~~
wherein the motor and drive wheel assembly includes a right angle gear reducer between
a motor of the motor and drive wheel assembly and the drive wheel.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The A drive car adapted for drivingly engaging a track comprising:~~
~~a frame;~~
~~a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to the frame; and~~
~~a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the frame, the motor and drive wheel~~
~~assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive~~
~~wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track; according to claim 27;~~
wherein a motor of the motor and drive wheel assembly is a position controllable drive
motor.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The A drive car adapted for drivingly engaging a track comprising:~~
~~a frame;~~
~~a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to the frame;~~
~~a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the frame, the motor and drive wheel~~
~~assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive~~
~~wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track; according to claim 27; further~~
~~comprising:~~
a control signal receiver; and
a control signal transmission device adapted to transmit control signals to another drive
car and to an article conveying car.

38. (Original) The drive car according to claim 37, further comprising:

a controller, the controller receiving control signals from the receiver, transmitting control signals to the motor and drive wheel assembly and transmitting control signals for at least one of another drive car and an article conveying car to the control signal transmission device.

39. (Previously Presented) The drive car according to claim 38, wherein the control signal receiver, the control signal transmission device and the controller include a CAN serial bus network.

40. (Original) The drive car according to claim 38, further comprising:
an interconnection adapted to connect a drive car to one of another drive car and an article conveying car, the interconnection including a mechanical connection and an electrical connection.

41. (Original) The drive car according to claim 39, wherein the electrical connection is electrically connected to the control signal transmission device.

42. (Previously Presented) A drive car adapted for drivingly engaging a track comprising:
a frame;
two wheel assemblies attached to the frame, each wheel assembly comprising: a plurality of spaced apart side wheels, the side wheels rotating about a vertical axis; and an end caster wheel, the end caster wheel rotating about a horizontal axis, the drive car having a forward direction of travel, one wheel assembly having the end wheel at an upper end of the wheel assembly and being forward of the other wheel assembly, the end wheel of the other wheel assembly being at a lower end of the wheel assembly; and
a motor and drive wheel assembly attached to the frame, the motor and drive wheel assembly being vertically movable relative to the frame, a drive wheel of the motor and drive wheel assembly being adapted to drivingly engage the track, the motor and drive wheel assembly comprising: a cantilever bar attached to a rear part of the motor and drive wheel assembly, a portion of the cantilever bar distal from the motor and drive wheel assembly being attached to the frame; and a slide assembly mounted between the rear part of the motor and drive wheel

assembly and the frame, the slide assembly comprising a slide slidably fitting within a slotted member, the slide assembly permitting the motor and drive wheel assembly to move vertically relative to the frame, the drive wheel being positioned between the wheel assemblies.

43. (Previously Presented) The drive car according to claim 42, further comprising:
a control signal receiver; and
a control signal transmission device adapted to transmit control signals to another drive car and to an article conveying car.

44 - 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An article conveying car adapted for movably engaging a track comprising:

_____ a frame;

_____ an endless movable belt;

_____ at least three rotatable rollers attached to the frame, the movable belt being positioned about the rollers;

_____ at least one of the rollers being translatably moveable relative to the movable belt;

and according to claim 44, further comprising:

a belt alignment system comprising a first alignment member on the belt and a second alignment member on at least one of the frame and at least one roller, the first alignment member engaging the second alignment member.

52. (Original) The article conveying car according to claim 51, wherein the first alignment member comprises a rib on the underside of the belt and the second alignment member comprises a groove.

53. (Original) The article conveying car according to claim 52, wherein the second alignment member comprises a groove in the at least three rollers.

54. (Original) The article conveying car according to claim 52, wherein the frame includes a reduced friction plate below a portion of the belt and the second alignment member comprises a groove in the plate.

55 - 59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An article conveying car adapted for movably engaging a track comprising:
_____ a frame;
_____ an endless movable belt;
_____ at least three rotatable rollers attached to the frame, the movable belt being positioned about the rollers;
_____ at least one of the rollers being translatably moveable relative to the movable belt;
and according to claim 58;
_____ a position controllable drive attached to the frame and operably connected to the belt,
wherein at least one roller is a drive roller and has a sprocket thereon, and the position controllable drive includes a timing belt engaging the sprocket.

61. (Original) The article conveying car according to claim 60, wherein the sprocket is integrally formed with the drive roller.

62. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An article conveying car adapted for movably engaging a track comprising:
_____ a frame;
_____ an endless movable belt;
_____ at least three rotatable rollers attached to the frame, the movable belt being positioned about the rollers;
_____ at least one of the rollers being translatably moveable relative to the movable belt;
and according to claim 44, further comprising:

an interconnection adapted to connect one article conveying car to one of a drive car and another article conveying car, the interconnection including a mechanical connection and an electrical connection.

63. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An article conveying car adapted for movably engaging a track comprising:

_____ a frame;

_____ an endless movable belt;

_____ at least three rotatable rollers attached to the frame, the movable belt being positioned about the rollers;

_____ at least one of the rollers being translatably moveable relative to the movable belt;

and according to claim 44, further comprising:

a plate extending away from the frame, the plate adapted to slidably fit beneath the belt on an adjacent article conveying car.

64. (Original) The article conveying car according to claim 63, wherein the plate has a rectangular shape.

65 - 68. (Cancelled)